



## **Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update** **December 2005**

*The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) is a partnership of 28 organizations that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is a monthly update on HCDOP activities.*

### **Scientific Studies**

- *Project update*
  - We are currently scheduling a Science Meeting for the HCDOP IAM project to discuss the key findings and implications from the first year's study and to help refine questions to be pursued in year two. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - The HCDOP IAM Quarterly All Hands Meeting for January 2006 will be shifted from 24 January to 31 January. It will be at UW-APL from 0930-1230. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - We learned from Norm Dicks that he successfully obtained a \$1.8 M appropriation for the second year of the HCDOP IAM study. IAM tasks are discussing the year two budget allocations. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - WDFW has produced a draft report on the progress on HB1896, regarding geoduck surveys. The report was produced under contract with DNR, which will be handling the final release. The report will be released to the House Select Committee on Hood Canal in early January 2006. (Mills, WDFW)
  - A group of HCDOP members, augmented with other resource people and titled the Onsite Sewage Subcommittee, met on December 20 to begin defining the nature of studies needed to further our understanding of the quantities of nitrogen compounds reaching the Canal from onsite sewage systems and the transmission pathways. Gary Turney chaired the meeting. A follow-up meeting is planned for late January or early February. (Hull, PSAT, Fagergren, PSAT)

### **Corrective Actions and other Hood Canal related projects**

#### **Human Sewage**

- Jefferson County has completed two rounds of onsite sewage system sampling for nitrogen removal efficiency. Data analysis is being done at this time. (Christensen, HCCC)
- Construction of onsite sewage demonstration projects is reaching completion; all three RetroFAST units have been installed, final work on the Five Star cluster system is set for the first week in January, one recirculating filter system has been installed and design work on a second system completed. (Hull, PSAT)

- Jefferson County Health staff completed the second round of sampling at five sites. Additional sites will be added in January and February as new demonstration sites reach stable operation and equipment is installed at other sites to sample underneath existing drainfields. (Hull, PSAT)
- Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Project (HCPIC) sampling is limited due to late night/early morning low tides. A dye trace is in progress where high fecal hits were found. Staff have also attended a Kitsap community meeting focused on Kitsap's PIC project. The PIC team (Amy Georgesen and Wendy Mathews) has participated in sampling for the Annas Bay Shellfish Closure Response, met with Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group regarding a sampling plan for Mission and Little Mission Creeks, and participated in the WRIA 16 Draft Recommendations meetings. (Book, Mason County).
- Onsite Enhancements: DOH has initiated development of guidance for Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) onsite management plans. Draft guidance will be available to stakeholders for review and comment this Spring, with a final document by July 2006. DOH has hired a GIS/Database person to facilitate improved onsite data management and integration. Contracts are in place or in process for pass through of state dollars to the 12 Puget Sound counties for improved data management and integration. (Avy, DOH)

#### Agricultural Waste

- Ecology's Water Quality Program is nearing completion on developing a grant agreement with Mason Conservation District for the Hood Canal Nutrient Management Program (FP06067). This program will employ demonstration sites to show agricultural producers how converting existing agricultural lands to those employing alternative cover crops can reduce off-site movement of nutrients (primarily nitrogen) to adjacent waters and ultimately Hood Canal. (McKee, ECY)
- Met with Mason Conservation District staff Rich Geiger and Shannon Kirby, Chair John Bolender, and Gayle Hoskison, USDA, on progress related to the anaerobic digester (Fagergren and Glasoe, PSAT)

#### Chum Carcass Management

- Worked on final contract language with the Skokomish Tribe staff, Keith Dublanica and Lalena Amiotte, with regard to this year's salmon carcass removal and composting project (Fagergren, PSAT)

#### Hatchery Waste

- WDFW has hired Kennedy/Jenks Consultants to design a new waste treatment system to address Hoodport Hatchery pond cleaning waste, which is currently discharged to Finch Creek near Hood Canal. The consultant is scheduled to complete the first phase in February 2006. The first phase consists of sampling, testing and analysis of waste characteristic, as well as identification of feasible treatment alternatives. WDFW will then choose a treatment regime and the consultant will begin the second (final design and permitting) phase, followed by

construction. The new treatment system is scheduled to be online and operational by June 30, 2007. (Mills, WDFW)

### **Outreach**

- Phase I of two Hood Canal education campaigns--WSU Extension's Shore Stewards and Washington Sea Grant Simple Techniques projects have been completed. Information from their final reports will be included in February's update. PSAT is working with the groups to design phase II of these programs, which will focus on reducing fertilizer use and the detrimental effects of failing onsite sewage systems. (Knackstedt, PSAT)
- PSAT is in the process of developing a contract with WSU Extension Mason County to fund a Hood Canal Education Coordinator. The coordinator will assist with communication to citizens and evaluation of education programs. (Knackstedt, PSAT)
- HCWEN met on January 5, 1-4pm in Bremerton at the Kitsap Co. SSWM Annex. Topics included: Planning for 2006, Reviewing John Williams Hood Canal Movie, Results from the Watershed Pledge Survey, Upcoming events updates (Students in the Watershed, Storming the South Sound, LHCWIC Open House) etc (Piper, HCWEN)

### **Communications**

- *Communications activities*
  - A sub committee of the HCDOP CG (Anne Criss, Duane Fagergren, Dan Hannafious, Jan Newton, Dave Christensen, and Emily Piper) met in early December to review the communications plan. Anne Criss incorporated changes and sent a copy to HCDOP coordinating group members. (Criss, PSAT)
  - A sub committee will meet in early January to be scooping for the electronic Hood Canal newsletter. (Criss, PSAT)
  - PSAT has updated their Hood Canal Corrective Action and Education website. HCDOP monthly reports are now posted on the site. [http://www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/hood\\_canal.htm](http://www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/hood_canal.htm). (Criss, PSAT).
  - John Williams' (Still Hope Productions) short video on the Dissolved Oxygen issue in Hood Canal, reviewed at the last HCCG meeting, is being reviewed by the HCWEN group in early January. John is also working to produce other short video segments featuring HC DO as well as other corrective action recommendations for the public. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

- *Media coverage*

#### **Summary of HCCC survey of Hood Canal residents:**

##### **Survey Finds Hood Canal in Troubled Water**

The Kitsap Sun

December 19, 2005

[http://www.psat.wa.gov/News/in\\_the\\_news\\_pdf/121905\\_survey\\_Kitsapsun.pdf](http://www.psat.wa.gov/News/in_the_news_pdf/121905_survey_Kitsapsun.pdf)